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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 000375

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR IIP/G/AF TJDOWLING; AF/C; AF/PD DWHITMAN/PEHRNMAN
PARIS FOR ARS APEAVY/MSAVANET
BRAZZAVILLE FOR DCM GEORGE INDYKE

E.O.12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S. SPEAKER TO ADDRESS
DEMOCRATIZATION AND ELECTIONS

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Speaker will address government representatives, members of the civil society, NGO representatives, and members of the media on the benefits of a democratic society. Elections originally scheduled for June 2005 have been delayed at least until October 2005. Holding elections in 2005 is a top priority for the Congolese government. Elections are the key element in the 2003 peace plan aimed at ending a five-year war that killed an estimated 3.8 million people.

B. Time Frame DRC: Two weeks before June 2005 due to summer transfer season. The program would consist of two-day programs in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi and one-day programs in Kisangani, Bukavu and Goma. The departure flight for the Speaker will depend on his/her itinerary.

Time Frame BRAZZAVILLE: It is recommended that Brazzaville send speakers to Kinshasa for the two-day program.

C. PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM: Although the transitional government has progressed slowly, the government and civil society are working towards elections this year. The purpose of this program is to address democratization efforts, including elections. The program will demonstrate how a functioning democratic society will result in long-term regional stability, open markets, economic growth and protection of human rights.

D. AUDIENCE: Government officials, members of the civil society, NGO representatives, academics, legal personnel, and journalists.

E. PROPOSED TOPICS AND NATURE OF EVENTS: Post proposes programs on the process of democratization leading to elections, and the benefits of a democratic society. The Speaker should address how the democratic process can be implemented in the DRC.

F. TYPE OR NAME OF SPEAKER REQUIRED: Post would like a Speaker who can address the process of democratization in a country with a limited infrastructure, and with no democratic institutions in place. The Speaker can also address how the civil society can take an active part in the democratization process. Post would prefer a Speaker who can also discuss the experience of democratization in Africa and how that experience might apply to the DRC.

G. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS: A fluent French speaker is preferred. Post can provide a translator if necessary.

H. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC MATERIALS: Updated material on democratization and particularly elections which are not available on the Internet would be appreciated.

I. NAME OF MISSION PROGRAM OFFICER AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mission Program Officer: A/PAO Victoria DeLong
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J. FUNDING SPECIFICS: Kinshasa requests use of "I" Bucks for this Speaker program. Kinshasa will use program funds to cover honorarium and per diem, and lodging.

¶K. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: 1) Post is willing to share the speaker with other missions; 2) It is strongly recommended that the Speaker receive Washington briefings prior to his/her travel to the DRC. PAS Kinshasa will ensure that the Speaker receives security and political briefings upon arrival to Kinshasa.

¶L. Travel Warning Assurance Statement: Official U.S. Government personnel will meet the grantee at the airport; Embassy vehicles and drivers will provide secure transportation; Mission staff will escort the grantee to all official meetings and appointments.

MEECE